

BCA part II
Paper-XVI(New course)
Topic: Syntax in XHTML

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Introduction

XHTML syntax is very similar to HTML syntax and all the valid HTML elements are also valid in XHTML. But XHTML is case sensitive so you have to pay a bit extra attention while writing an XHTML document to make your HTML document compliant to XHTML.

You must remember the following important points while writing a new XHTML document or converting existing HTML document into XHTML document:

- All documents must have a DOCTYPE.
- All tags must be in lower case.
- All documents must be properly formed.
- All tags must be closed.
- All attributes must be added properly.
- The name attribute has changed.
- Attributes cannot be shortened.
- All tags must be properly nested.

DOCTYPE Declaration

All XHTML documents must contain a DOCTYPE declaration at the start. There are three types of DOCTYPE declarations:

- Strict
- Transitional
- Frameset

Here is an example of using DOCTYPE.

1. `<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"`
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Tags must be in lower case

XHTML is case-sensitive markup language. So, all the XHTML tags and attributes must be written in lower case.

1. `<!-- Invalid in XHTML -->`
2. `XHTML Tutorial`
3. `<!-- Valid in XHTML -->`
4. `XHTML Tutorial`

Closing Tags are mandatory

An XHTML must have an equivalent closing tag. Even empty elements should also have closing tags. Let's see an example:

1. `<!-- Invalid in XHTML -->`
2. `<p>This paragraph is not written according to XHTML syntax.`
3. `<!-- Invalid in XHTML -->`
4. ``
5. `<!-- Valid in XHTML -->`
6. `<p>This paragraph is not written according to XHTML syntax.</p>`
7. `<!-- Valid in XHTML-->`
8. ``

Attribute Quotes

All the XHTML attribute's values must be quoted. Otherwise, your XHTML document is assumed as an invalid document.

See this example:

1. `<!-- Invalid in XHTML -->`
2. ``
3. `<!-- Valid in XHTML -->`
4. ``

Attribute Minimization

XHTML doesn't allow you to minimize attributes. You have to explicitly state the attribute and its value.

See this example:

1. `<!--Invalid in XHTML -->`
2. `<option selected>`
3. `<!-- valid in XHTML-->`
4. `<option selected="selected">`

A list of minimized attributes in HTML and the way you need to write them in XHTML.

HTML Style	XHTML Style
compact	compact="compact"
checked	checked="checked"
declare	declare="declare"
readonly	readonly="readonly"
disabled	disabled="disabled"
selected	selected="selected"
defer	defer="defer"
ismap	ismap="ismap"
nohref	nohref="nohref"
noshade	noshade="noshade"
nowrap	nowrap="nowrap"
multiple	multiple="multiple"
noresize	noresize="noresize"

The id Attribute

The id attribute is used to replace the name attribute. Instead of using name = "name", XHTML prefers to use id = "id".

See this example:

1. `<!-- Invalid in XHTML -->`

2. ``
3. `<!-- Valid in XHTML -->`
4. ``

The language attribute

In XHTML, the language attribute of script tag is deprecated so you have to use type attribute instead of this.

See this example:

1. `<!-- Invalid in XHTML -->`
2. `<script language="JavaScript" type="text/JavaScript">`
3. `document.write("Hello XHTML!");`
4. `</script>`
5. `<!-- Valid in XHTML -->`
6. `<script type="text/JavaScript">`
7. `document.write("Hello XHTML!");`
8. `</script>`

Nested Tags

XHTML tags must be nested properly. Otherwise your document is assumed as an incorrect XHTML document.

See this example:

1. `<!-- Invalid in XHTML -->`
2. `<i> This text is bold and italic</i>`
3. `<!-- Valid in XHTML -->`
4. `<i> This text is bold and italic</i>`

Element Prohibitions

The following elements are not allowed to have any other element inside them. This is applicable for all the descending elements.

Element	Prohibition
<code><a></code>	It must not contain other <code><a></code> elements.
<code><pre></code>	It must not contain the <code></code> , <code><object></code> , <code><big></code> , <code><small></code> ,

	<sub>, or <sup> elements.
<button>	It must not contain the <input>, <select>, <textarea>, <label>, <button>, <form>, <fieldset>, <iframe> or <isindex> elements.
<label>	It must not contain other <label> elements.
<form>	It must not contain other <form> elements.